DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 4-22-83

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PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

(6)

January 4, 1971

182

Honorable David W. Dennis
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Dennis:

Thank you for your letter of December 22, 1970 inquiring, on behalf of Mr. Ray Mitrione, about the abduction and murder of his brother Dan A. Mitrione and subsequent developments.

I am informed that AID's Office of Public Safety, under whose auspices Mr. Dan A. Mitrione was assigned to Montevideo, recently received a letter from Mr. Ray Mitrione similar to the one he sent to you. Upon receipt of that letter the Director of the Office of Public Safety, Mr. Byron Engle, telephoned Mr. Mitrione (on December 23) and answered his questions and provided as much information as possible. Mr. Engle also invited Mr. Mitrione to come to Washington so that he could see some of the file material on his brother's case, and Mr. Mitrione said he hoped he could accept the invitation soon. On December 29 the Office of Public Safety again contacted Mr. Mitrione, who stated that he had received all the information he needed in his December 23 conversation with Mr. Engle.

Mr. Mitrione was assured, and I would like to assure you, that the Montevideo Police are actively continuing their investigation into the murder of his brother. Mr. Engle would be pleased to provide you with details at your convenience, if you so desire.

I hope this information is of use to you. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

(1)

Sincerely,

[illegible]

David M. Abshire
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

ARA/APU/U:DWCox:tag
#23673 12/30/70

Clearance: ARA/APU-Mr. Eaton SE
AID/OPS-Mr. Munroe
H-Mr. Samuels MS
ARA - Miss Robbins

FEC - AID

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : ARA/LA/APU, Mr. David W. Cox DATE: Dec. 30, 1970

FROM : OPS, Johnson F. Munroe

SUBJECT: Letter from Congressman David W. Dennis (Indiana)

Per our telephone conversation this afternoon, Mr. Ray Mitrione of Richmond, Indiana, had written to Byron Engle, Director of the Office of Public Safety, about the same time he wrote to Congressman Dennis seeking the same information mentioned by him in his letter to the Congressman about the investigation of the circumstances surrounding the kidnapping and murder of his brother, Dan Mitrione, in Montevideo.

Upon receipt of Mr. Mitrione's letter, Mr. Engle telephoned him December 23rd and gave him the answers to the questions he had raised to the extent possible without getting into some of the sensitive areas of the police actions since Dan Mitrione was murdered. I have today talked to Mr. Mitrione who said he had received all the information he needed and would write to Congressman Dennis letting him know this, and that he does not now need the Congressman's assistance. He said he had tried to contact Congressman Dennis in Richmond today on this but learned the Congressman had returned to Washington. Consequently he will write to him to say he now has the answers he needed.

PER - AID

For your information, and you may so advise Congressman Dennis, Mr. Engle also invited Mr. Mitrione to visit our office if he should come to Washington soon, so that we may show to him some of the material from our files concerning the investigations which have been conducted by the Montevideo police in connection with his brother's death. He tells me he hopes to accept this invitation soon.

In view of the foregoing, we are returning the correspondence from Congressman Dennis in order that a prompt reply, along lines above, may be prepared.

Attachments:
Ltr dated 12/22/70 from Congressman Dennis
enclosing Ray Mitrione's Letter 12/17/70

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3010-106

DAVID W. DENNIS
10TH DISTRICT, INDIANA

1729 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

• COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

DISTRICT OFFICES:
WESTCOTT HOTEL
10TH AND MAIN STREETS
RICHMOND, INDIANA 47374
PHONE

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PHONE

ACTION is assigned to

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December 22, 1970

The Honorable David M. Abshire
Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
DEC 28 1970

Dear Mr. Abshire:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I have received from Mr. Ray Mitrione of Richmond, Indiana, requesting such information as may now be available concerning the abduction and murder of his brother Dan in Uruguay last August. As you will note, Mr. Mitrione hesitates to request details concerning this matter from his brother's widow, which is certainly understandable. At the same time, he and the other brothers and sisters have apparently received little information beyond the news reports, and therefore are very anxious to learn more about the circumstances surrounding the death of their brother.

Your assistance in complying with Mr. Mitrione's request will be sincerely appreciated. If appropriate, I would appreciate your sending me a copy of your reply to Mr. Mitrione.

Sincerely yours,

David W. Dennis

DAVID W. DENNIS
Member

Encl
att

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12/28/70

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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DECLASSIFIED

P. O. Box 982
Richmond, Indiana 47374

The Honorable David Dennis
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Dennis:

I know you are a very busy man but I would like to ask a favor of you, if possible. It's about my brother, Dan.

Several months have passed now since his death and I am wondering if there are any details or developments in his death that could be told to us. I realize a lot of this information is highly confidential. But we feel there are so many questions unanswered. Surely some investigation must have been made. The only things we know about Dan's death are the things published in the newspapers. It seems as if the matter has been dropped and is a closed chapter.

Of course, it may be his wife knows but I don't feel we can ask her these things right now. Yet, as his brothers and sisters, we feel we should know also.

Is there any way you could help us in this matter. We certainly would appreciate anything you could do for us. I hope you understand our feelings.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely

Ray

Ray Mitrione

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